**Thesis Statement:** States the central idea or main argument in your essay

I. Introduction Paragraph

A. Introduce Character (1 sentence introduction)

B. Short Summary of *The Outsiders* (3 sentences)

1. Main Characters/Gangs

2. Big Conflict

3. How your character is involved

C. **Thesis Statement**

II. Body Paragraph: What was your character like before he changed? (Topic Sentence)

A. Physical Description

1. Textual Evidence (Quote)

2. Explain your quote

B. Characteristic that changes later on (“The Before”)

1. Textual Evidence

2. Explain your quote

C. Conclusion Sentence (Re-state your topic sentence in new words)

III. Body Paragraph: How does conflict change your character? (Topic Sentence)

A. What is the conflict?

1. Textual Evidence (Quote)

2. Explanation in your own words

B. How your character changes as a result of the conflict

1. Textual Evidence (Quote)

2. Explanation in your own words

C. Conclusion Sentence (re-state how the conflict caused the change)

IV. Conclusion: How the change leads to theme (Topic Sentence)

A. What is the lesson the character learns

1. Textual Evidence

2. Explanation

B. Re-state your thesis statement in new words

C. Remind readers how we learn from this change—what do you want readers to learn?